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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 6

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Letter dated 10 August 1995 from the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the forty-seventh session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva requests that the attached document be circulated as an official document at the forty-seventh session of the Sub-Commission, under agenda item 6.

(Signed): Vladimir Pavicevic
Ambassador

GE.95-13361 (E)

Geneva, 10 August 1995

Dear Mr. Maxim,

I have the honour to address you upon instruction of my Government concerning the Croatian aggression on the Republic of Serb Krajina and the tragic humanitarian consequences it has entailed, in a situation when all basic human rights of the entire population of the Republic of Serb Krajina are being massively and flagrantly violated by Croatia.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is expecting that independent experts of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities will initiate a corresponding action condemning Croatia for its flagrant bombing of unprotected refugees, for massive killings, for terror and eviction of over 200,000 people from their ancestral homes where they have lived for centuries. We expect also that the voice of the Governments whose representatives are taking part in the deliberations of the current session of the Sub-Commission as experts will also be heard in view of the repeated genocide under way against the Serb people in these lands, that the Government will demonstrate their sense for the truth, for respect of basic civilizational and humanitarian norms, and that they will comprehend the magnitude of the threat looming large against their own interests and the interests of the whole of mankind when the politics of double standards is pursued. If not, the members of the Sub-Commission, and the international community in general, will take responsibility for closing their eyes to the crimes we are witnessing, as well as for the future criminal actions of Croatia, which will certainly follow in other lands of the former Yugoslavia.

We have always maintained and we are maintaining now all over again, that the civil war in Croatia broke because of the Tudjman regime's intention to expel Serbs from their own territory; in doing so, this regime has emulated the ustashi State of Ante Pavelic. During the Second World War, the Croats were helped by German fascists; at present [they are being helped] even by some countries who historically have had Serbs on their side as allies.

Would you please, Mr. Chairman, inform the members of the Sub-Commission of the request and expectations of the Yugoslav Government that adequate and indispensable measures be taken at the earliest hour possible in order to, at least, mitigate the consequences of the Croatian aggression and help the threatened civilian population.

If it is not feasible to stop total ethnic cleansing of Serbs bearing the assaults of the ustashi military, we are of the view that the Sub-Commission can at least help prevent the massacre of over 50,000 innocent civilians who are still encircled and under deliberate strikes of artillery, aircraft and infantry attacks.

I would also request you kindly to have this letter circulated as an official document of the current session of the Sub-Commission, under item 6.

(Signed): Vladimir Pavicevic
Ambassador